



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

May 18, 2021

Lucia Chiocchio, Esq.  
Kristen Motel, Esq.  
Cuddy & Feder LLP  
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
White Plains, New York 10601

RE: **DOCKET NO. 501** – New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 106 Sharon Road, Lakeville (Salisbury), Connecticut.

Dear Attorneys Chiocchio and Motel:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than June 8, 2021.

Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov). In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan and in accordance with Section 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Council requests all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

**Please be advised that the original and 15 copies are required to be submitted to the Council's office on or before the June 8, 2021 deadline.**

Copies of your responses are required to be provided to all parties and intervenors listed in the service list, which can be found on the Council's website under the "Pending Matters" link.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sincerely,

*s/Melanie Bachman*

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director

MB/MP

c: Service List dated April 5, 2021

**Docket No. 501**  
**Pre-Hearing Interrogatories**  
**May 18, 2021**

**General**

1. Referencing page 7 and Attachment 12 of New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC's (AT&T) Application, of the letters sent to abutting property owners, how many certified mail receipts were received? If any receipts were not returned, which owners did not receive their notice? Were any additional attempts made to contact those property owners?
2. Referencing page 26 of the Application, how is the construction cost of the facility recovered by AT&T?

**Site Search**

3. Approximately when was the search ring established for the proposed facility?
4. Referencing Attachment 2 of the Application, please provide a revised Figure 1 identifying the center point and radius of the search area.

**Site/tower**

5. Would any blasting be required to develop the site?
6. Referencing Attachment 3 of the Application, Facilities and Equipment Specifications states "The tower will be designed in accordance with American National Standards Institute TIA/EIA-222-G "Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures" and the 2012 International Building Code with 2016 Building Code Amendment." However, the State of Connecticut has adopted the 2015 International Building Code with 2018 Building Code Amendment effective October 1, 2018. Please clarify.
7. Provide the approximate widths of the tower at the base and at the top.
8. Would the tower and foundation be designed to accommodate an extension in tower height? If yes, for how many feet taller in height?
9. Referencing Attachment 4 of the Application, Sheet D-1, Compound Surface, the proposed compound would have four inches (minimum) of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of stone, a layer of Mirafi fabric, and then structural fill. How was the stone depth (of at least four inches) determined? Is it based on a code requirement, drainage design, geotechnical conditions, etc.? Explain.
10. What measures are proposed for the site to ensure security and deter vandalism? (Including alarms, gates, locks, anti-climb fence design, etc.)
11. Pursuant to CGS §16-50p(a)(3)(G), identify the safety standards and/or codes by which equipment machinery or technology that would be used or operated at the proposed facility.
12. Does the proposed site contain any Connecticut Prime Farmland Soils? If so, what acreage of Prime Farmland Soils would the facility (including the access drive) be located on? What is the total acreage of Prime Farmland Soils on the subject property?

13. Would any tree clearing occur within core forest? If so, how many acres? Under Connecticut General Statutes §16-50k, "Core forest" means unfragmented forest land that is three hundred feet or greater from the boundary between forest land and nonforest land, as determined by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection." How would tree clearing affect core forest?

### **Coverage/Capacity**

14. Referencing Attachment 1 of the Application, would the proposed facility interact with all 7 of the Neighboring Sites listed?
15. Referencing Attachment 1 of the Application, Radio Frequency Analysis Report, p. 11, provide the radial distance to neighboring sites identified as CT1235 and CT1339.
16. Referencing Attachment 7 of the Application, AT&T notes that other frequencies would be deployed in addition to the 700 MHz frequency. Does the 700 MHz act as a "base frequency" of the network where most of the wireless traffic occurs? Were 700 MHz signal propagation **plots and data provided to be conservative because other (higher) frequencies can provide less** existing coverage area? How do the other frequencies interact in AT&T's wireless system?
17. Referencing page 14 of the Application, AT&T notes, "Closing the coverage gaps and providing reliable wireless services in Lakeville requires a tower site that can provide reliable service over a footprint that spans several hundred square-feet." Referencing Attachment 1 of the Application, Radio Frequency Analysis Report, p. 6, AT&T notes that the proposed facility would provide 2.4 square miles of incremental coverage at 700 MHz for in-building service. Please reconcile these two statements.
18. Are all the proposed frequencies used to transmit voice and data?
19. Would the proposed antennas and equipment be capable of offering 5G services, or would new antennas and/or equipment be required to provide 5G once this service is deployed in this area?
20. What is the existing signal strength (for 700 MHz) within the area AT&T is seeking to cover from this site?
21. Does AT&T have any statistics on dropped calls and/or ineffective attempts in the vicinity of the proposed facility? If so, what do they indicate? Does AT&T have any other indicators of substandard service in this area?
22. Would the proposed site be needed for coverage, capacity, or both? If the proposed facility is needed for capacity, please respond to the following:
- a) Are any nearby wireless facilities (or sectors) nearing capacity limits? At what frequencies?
  - b) Please include a projected exhaustion date for each of these sectors.
  - c) Would the deployment of the proposed facility be sufficient to address these capacity concerns, or would an additional facility be required in the near term to off-load traffic?

23. Referencing Attachment 1 of the Application, Radio Frequency Analysis Report, p. 2, how many miles of new coverage would the facility provide to Routes 41 and 112 at 700 MHz?
24. What is the lowest antenna centerline height at which AT&T could achieve its wireless service objectives? What would be the consequences (in terms of handoff, coverage and capacity, etc.) if the tower were ten feet shorter, i.e. the antenna centerline height were ten feet lower?
25. Have any other wireless carriers expressed an interest in co-locating on the proposed facility to date?
26. Has the host municipality expressed an interest in co-locating emergency services antennas? Would AT&T provide space for municipal emergency services antennas and design the tower to accommodate such antennas, if requested?
27. Would flush-mounted antennas provide the required coverage? Would the flush-mount configuration result in reduced coverage and/or necessitate greater antenna height with multiple levels of antennas? Explain.

#### **Backup power**

28. Would the backup generator have containment measures to protect against fluid leakage?
29. What would be the respective run time for AT&T's backup generator before it would need to be refueled, assuming it is running at full load under normal conditions?
30. Would a battery backup (if applicable) be used to provide uninterrupted power and prevent a reboot condition? How long could the battery backup alone supply power to the facility in the event that the generator fails to start?

#### **Public Safety**

31. Will the proposed facility support text-to-911 service? Is additional equipment required for this purpose?
32. Would AT&T's installation comply with the intent of the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act of 2006?
33. Describe the additional equipment necessary to operate FirstNet services.
34. Why was the proposed site selected for FirstNet deployment?

#### **Environment**

35. Would the proposed project comply with the 2004 Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual?
36. Identify the nearest "Important Bird Area" as designated by the National Audubon Society?
37. Would AT&T's proposed facility comply with recommended guidelines of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for minimizing the potential for telecommunications towers to impact bird species?

38. Would the proposed facility be visible from any state or locally-designated scenic roads within two miles of the site?
39. What, if any, stealth tower design options would be feasible to employ at this site? Please provide costs related to each stealth tower design.
40. Is the proposed project located within the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (UHVNHA)? Would the proposed facility impact the UHVNHA? Explain.
41. Are there any known northern long-eared bat hibernacula within 0.25 miles or maternity roost trees within 150 feet of the project area?
42. Referencing Attachment 4 of the Application, Sheet A-2, Southeast Elevation, the proposed monopole would be painted brown. Would AT&T's proposed antennas, antenna mounts and other tower-mounted equipment be painted brown also? Explain.
43. Were any stormwater drainage-related calculations or analysis performed? Provide such calculations or analysis.
44. Please submit photographic site documentation with notations linked to the site plans or a detailed aerial image that identify locations of site-specific and representative site features. The submission should include photographs of the site from public road(s) or publicly accessible area(s) as well as Site-specific locations depicting site features including, but not necessarily limited to, the following locations as applicable:

For each photo, please indicate the photo viewpoint direction and stake or flag the locations of site-specific and representative site features. Site-specific and representative site features include, but are not limited to, as applicable:

1. wetlands, watercourses and vernal pools;
2. forest/forest edge areas;
3. agricultural soil areas;
4. sloping terrain;
5. proposed stormwater control features;
6. nearest residences;
7. Site access and interior access road(s);
8. utility pads/electrical interconnection(s);
9. clearing limits/property lines;
10. mitigation areas; and
11. any other noteworthy features relative to the Project.

A photolog graphic must accompany the submission, using a site plan or a detailed aerial image, depicting each numbered photograph for reference. For each photo, indicate the photo location number and viewpoint direction, and clearly identify the locations of site-specific and representative site features shown (e.g., physical staking/flagging or other means of marking the subject area).

The submission shall be delivered electronically in a legible portable document format (PDF) with a maximum file size of <20MB. If necessary, multiple files may be submitted and clearly marked in terms of sequence.